68th Legislature

As of: 2022/09/08 05:23:19 Drafter: Trevor Graff, 406-444-4975 PD 0008

1 \*\*\*\* BILL NO. \*\*\*\* 2 **INTRODUCED BY \*\*\*\*** 3 BY REQUEST OF THE \*\*\*\* 4 5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING THE NUCLEAR POWER ADVISORY COUNCIL; 6 CREATING THE NUCLEAR POWER LIAISON: AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES." 7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA: 8 9 10 NEW SECTION. Section 1. Nuclear power advisory council -- allocation -- composition and 11 duties. (1) There is created a nuclear power advisory council. The council is attached to the department of 12 environmental quality for administrative purposes only, as prescribed in 2-15-121. 13 (2) (a) The council is composed of 9 members. 14 (b) Legislative leadership shall appoint two legislators from different political parties. 15 (c) Legislative majority and minority party leadership shall both submit lists of 3 potential appointees 16 for the positions subject to subsections (2)(c)(i) through (2)(c)(vi) to the governor. (d) The governor shall appoint four members from the majority party list and three members from the 17 minority party list. 18 19 (c) Subject to subsection (2)(a) the members of the nuclear advisory council are selected as follows: 20 (i) two from nuclear industry backgrounds; 21 (ii) one with expertise in public health; (iii) one with expertise in land and water conservation; 22 23 (iv) one with expertise in economics or the finance industry; 24 (v) one attorney; 25 (vi) one from a locality affected by nuclear power production in the state; and 26 (vii) two legislators from different political parties. 27 (3) No more than five members shall be of the same political party. 28 (4) The council shall select a presiding officer.

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1	(5)	The council shall meet quarterly during the initial construction of a nuclear plant in the state. The				
2	council may meet semi-annually after a nuclear power plant is fully operational in the state.					
3	(6)	Duties of the council include:				
4	(a)	reviewing quarterly reports provided by existing nuclear power projects in the state that include but				
5	are not limited to:					
6	(i)	the effectiveness of all safety systems, including but not limited to the emergency core cooling				
7	systems, of a nuclear facility;					
8	(ii)	the effectiveness of all nuclear waste storage facilities and methods to prevent the escape of such				
9	materials into the environment;					
10	(iii)	the current performance of the plant, including generation output; and				
11	(iv)	all current and future financial impacts of the plant to both state and local interests.				
12	(b)	gathering and facilitating public comment regarding the quarterly reports.				
13	(c)	Conducting an annual review of existing nuclear facilities' evacuation and emergency				
14	management plans. Copies of such plan shall be made available to the public upon request at no more than the					
15	cost of reproduction. The council shall provide an annual report regarding the review to the governor and the					
16	energy and telecommunications interim committee in accordance with 5-11-210.					
17	(d)	recommend tasks and work priorities for the nuclear power advisory council liaison.				
18	(e)	making recommendations regarding the cost, permitting, environmental practices, waste				
19	management practices, public health impacts, and emergency management planning of nuclear power plants.					
20	(5)	Proceedings of the council are subject to public participation guidelines in accordance with 2-3-				
21	103.					
22	(6)	Unless otherwise provided by law, each member is entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses,				
23	as provided	for in 2-18-501 through 2-18-503, incurred while performing advisory council duties.				
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26	<u>NE</u>	W SECTION. Section 2. Nuclear Power Liaison. (1) There is a nuclear power liaison who is an				
27	employee of the department of environmental quality but serves as staff to the nuclear power advisory council					
28	created by [section 1].					

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1 (2) The nuclear power advisory council shall nominate three candidates for the liaison position. The 2 governor shall select the liaison from those candidates. The liaison report to the director of the department of 3 environmental quality or the director's designated representative. 4 (3) The liaison shall represent the interest of the state by assisting the department of environmental 5 quality in dealing with federal agencies, private entities, and local governments related to nuclear power 6 development. In carrying out these duties, the liaison shall: 7 (a) monitor the activities of nuclear power stations; 8 (b) assist in the implementation of waste storage and emergency management planning; 9 (c) assist in reviewing and compiling required reports as found in [section 1]; 10 (d) assist in preparing and disseminating required reports to the nuclear power advisory council, 11 governor, and energy and telecommunications interim committee; and 12 (e) other duties as assigned by the nuclear power advisory council. 13 (4) The liaison shall submit a report to the energy and telecommunications interim committee by July 14 1 of each year. 15 16 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Funding of nuclear power advisory council. (1) There is an account in 17 the state special revenue fund to which all fees collected under this section must be deposited in the account 18 provided for in [section 5] 19 In addition to all other licenses, fees, and taxes imposed by law, all regulated companies shall: 20 (a) within 30 days after the close of each calendar quarter, file with the department of revenue a 21 statement, in a form that the commission and department may determine, showing the projected in state 22 revenue of a public utility or company developing a nuclear power station within the state for that calendar 23 quarter of operation or portion of a quarter; 24 at that time pay to the department of revenue a fee based on a percentage of the gross operating 25 revenue reported, as determined by the department of revenue under [section 4].

The amount of money which may be raised by the fee on the regulated companies during a fiscal

year may not be increased, except as provided in [section 4], from the amount appropriated, including both

base and contingency appropriations, by the legislature for that fiscal year. Any additional money required for

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1	operation of the nuclear power advisory council must be obtained from other sources in a manner authorized by					
2	the legislature.					
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5	NEW SECTION. Section 4. Determination of fee reporting (1) On or before August 31 of each					
6	year, the department of revenue shall:					
7	(a) determine the total gross operating revenue generated by public utilities or private companies					
8	developing a nuclear power facility within the state for the previous fiscal year;					
9	(b) compute the percentage, subject to revision as provided in subsection (2), of the amount					
10	determined in subsection (1)(a) that will produce an amount equal to the current appropriation to the nuclear					
11	power advisory council;					
12	(c) adjust the percentage multiplier computed in subsection (1)(b) to ensure that sufficient funds are					
13	generated to meet the appropriation and that excess funds are not generated or retained by:					
14	(i) determining the appropriation to the nuclear power advisory council for the previous fiscal year and					
15	comparing it to the fees collected from the previous fiscal year;					
16	(ii) reducing or increasing the percentage determined in subsection (1)(b) for the current year in order					
17	to account for any difference determined in subsection (1)(c)(i); and					
18	(iii) if necessary, reducing the revenue to be collected for the current year by any funds remaining					
19	unspent at the close of the prior fiscal year; and					
20	(d) give notice by mail to each regulated company of the percentage to be applied to the gross					
21	operating revenue reported under 69-1-223(2) to determine the amount of the fee to be paid.					
22	(2) (a) The department of revenue shall adjust the percentage multiplier if the department considers a					
23	change necessary to meet or to not exceed the amount to be raised by the fee because of:					
24	(i) fluctuations in the actual gross operating revenue subject to the fee; or					
25	(ii) submission and approval of a budget amendment authorizing the spending of money from a					
26	contingency appropriation included in the appropriation measure for the office of the consumer counsel and					
27	authorized to be raised by means of the fee.					

(b) Adjustments of the percentage multiplier are subject to the exception provided in subsection (1)(b)

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1	for municipally	/ owned and	operated	redulated	companies.

- (c) Public utilities and companies must be given at least 30 days' notice of any change in the percentage multiplier.
  - (d) Any change in the percentage multiplier is effective at the beginning of the next calendar quarter.
- (3) In the event that the fee charged in 1 year is in excess of the amount actually expended in that year, the excess must be deducted from the amount required to be raised by the fee for the next year before the determination required by subsection (1) is made. Money remaining unspent at the close of the fiscal year must be used to reduce the percentage calculated in subsection (1) in the subsequent fiscal year.
- (4) All fees paid by a regulated company pursuant to this section are immediately recoverable by the regulated company in its rates and charges. Within 30 days after the issuance by the department of revenue of the notice required by subsection (1), the public service commission shall by separate order authorize each regulated company to fully recover in its rates and charges, on an annual basis, the fees levied by this part.

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 4] are intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 69, chapter 3, and the provisions of Title 69, chapter 3, apply to [sections 1 through 4].

NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective dates. (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) [this act] is effective October 1, 2023.

(2) [Sections 1 through 5] is effective on the date that the department of environmental quality certifies to the code commissioner that a company has filed an early site permit application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The department of environmental quality shall submit certification within 30 days of the occurrence of the contingency.

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